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REFRIGERATORS.

DECORATION, or more properly, cabinet work as applied to refrigerators, at first glance might seem a trifle incongruous or even absurd, but as a matter of fact, it is neither. So indispensable and prominent an article of furniture has the refrigerator become, that of late the serious attention of not only the householder, but the furnisher and architect, has been given to rendering it attractive as well as useful.

The latter has, in his designs, to provide proper space for its accommodation, and is anxious that when in position it shall not mar, by its unsightliness, his carefully planned effects or details.

A few years since—any out-of-the-way corner, no matter how poorly adapted for the purpose, was “good enough” for the ice box. To-day the architect having frequently to provide the article itself, as well as the space it shall occupy, bestows careful thought upon what is required of the refrigerator, and what arrangements he should make to enable it to meet such requirements. Its convenience of access for the ice man, and usefulness to the family are considered with regard to its location. The depth and height are kept down to easy arms reach, and the length at the front is made to determine its capacity. Drawings of the proposed interior arrangements are made, and specifications descriptive of its system of refrigeration, its construction, and cost are written out. These are submitted to his client—with such endorsement as can be given—for approval, and in due course the order to “go ahead” is given.

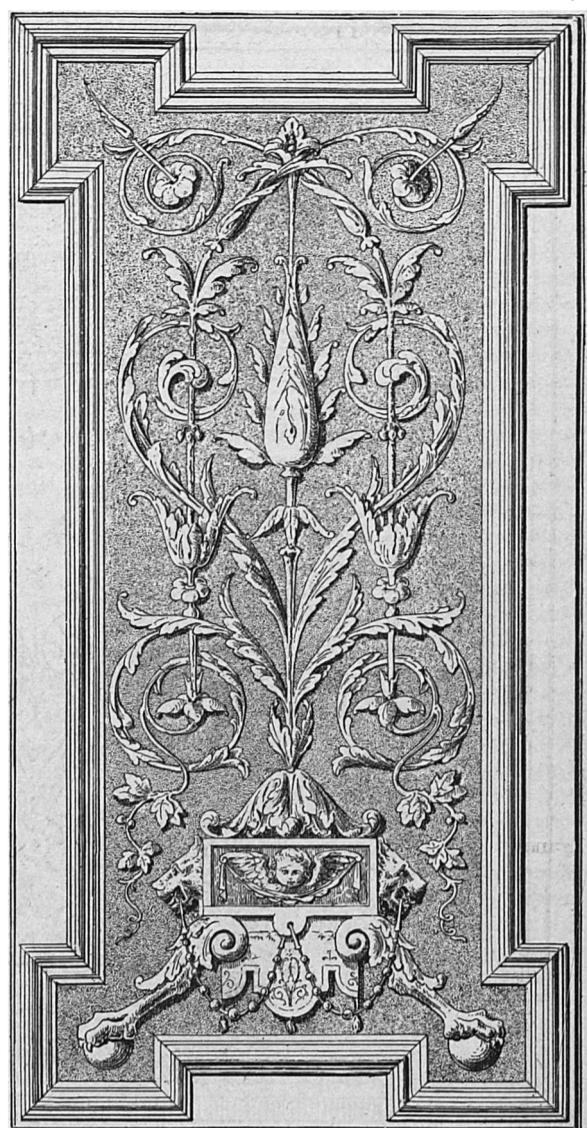
Probably this is the wisest way for the new house builder to make his purchase. He will, at least, have his architect's assurances that, so far as material and workmanship are concerned, the article shall be as specified, and the architect for his own sake will be very slow to indorse a system with the workings of which he is not well acquainted.

In the class of houses owned by the Sloanes, Marquands, Rhinelander, Henry Villard, Adolph Kuttroff, Thomas Rutter, Charles J. Osborne and others, may be found refrigerators costing many hundreds of dollars and finished with the most elaborate care. The system of refrigeration used is the Lorillard, seeming to combine all the essentials of perfect refrigeration with simplicity, convenience of arrangement and first-class workmanship. In the houses mentioned, the details of outside finish, panelings, mouldings, hardware, etc., are in harmony with the general trim of the kitchen, hall, or butler's pantry, where they are located. Such expensive outside work is not, however, necessary to the system, and an excellent refrigerator embodying this system may be had at a very reasonable figure.

Perfect refrigeration is as necessary to good health as perfect ventilation. A poor refrigerator will sow the seeds of disease and death as actively as sewer gas, and the saving in the purchase of some nondescript called a refrigerator and apt to be cold in name only, may be the amount increased a hundred fold, to be paid the physician or the undertaker.

It is then of vital importance that the principles of refrigeration should be understood, and the would-be investor learn what to seek and what to avoid. The old-fashioned and cumbersome “ice box” is fast being replaced by the modern upright refrigerator. As the makers of the different styles all claim for their special offspring the possession of all the requisites of perfect refrigeration, a few hints as to what constitutes such—the result of careful investigation—will not be ill-timed.

Generally speaking, the best are the production of firms engaged in the manufacture of refrigerators only. “No man can serve two masters,” nor can a concern give to so important an article the careful study its necessities merit, and, at the same time, do justice to some other class of goods they may be making. Deal then with the producer; if you do not know such, ask your architect or builder.



PANEL FOR SIDE BOARD.

*G. A. Weis
Allentown, Pa.*

Good work cannot be expected from a refrigerator, any more than from a man, unless well fed. Do not expect cold air from an empty ice tank. Bear in mind you are buying something to preserve your FOOD, not an ice-saving machine.

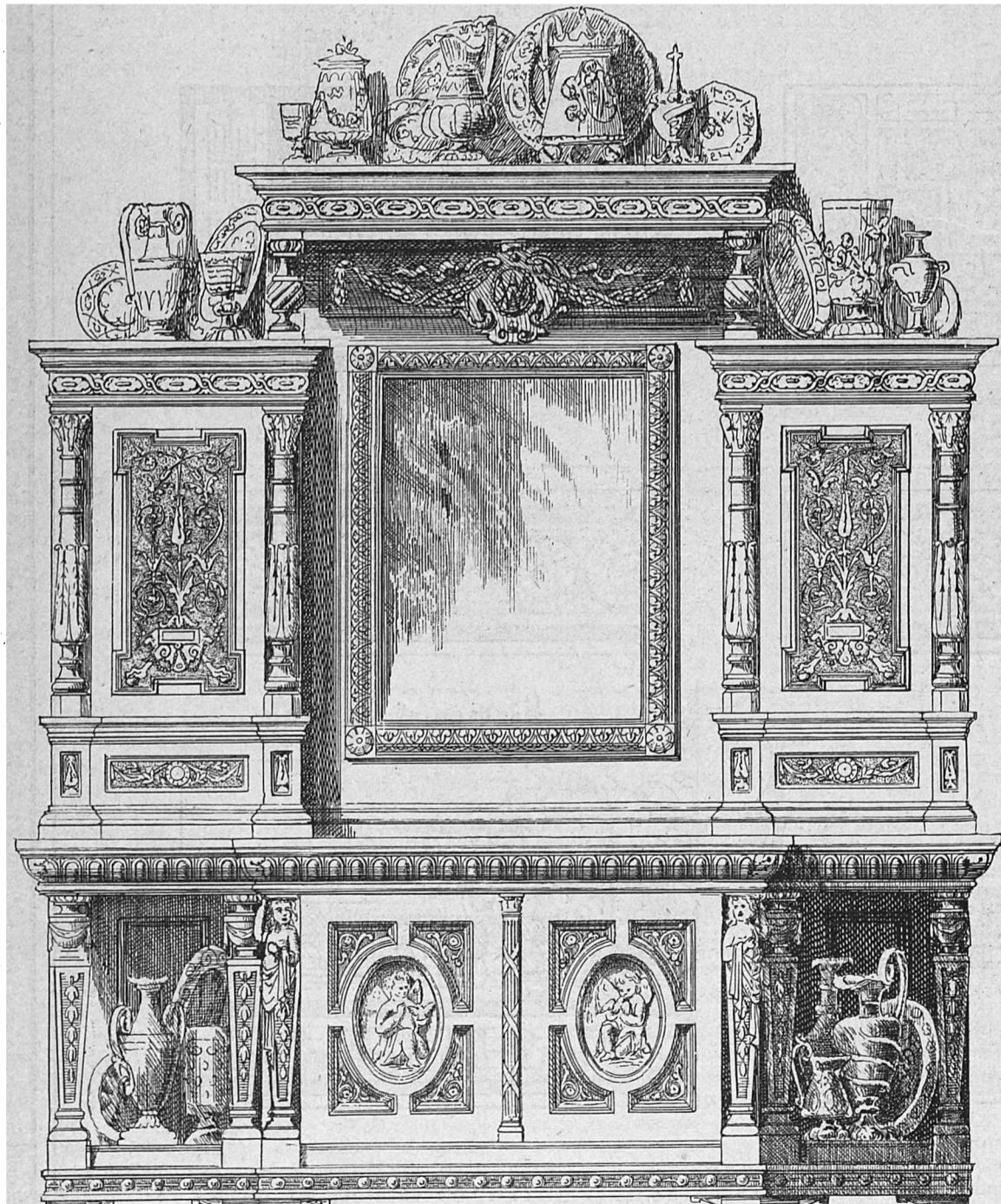
Upon the power (ice) and its location in relation to what it has to do, depends not only the degree of cold obtained, but more important, the circulation, and upon that the dryness. See then that you have sufficient ice, that it is placed to yield the best results; that the drainage pipe is short, well trapped, and easily accessible. The trap should be detachable. Consider the storage capacity, its convenience of arrangement, and the materials and construction of the refrigerator. Hard wood, ash for instance, will show wear the least, and makes a neat outside—clear, sweet spruce or white wood for the inside. Beware of metal-lined walls, as the summer atmosphere being saturated with moisture and entering through the opened refrigerator door, will condense upon the metal surfaces, for which it has an affinity, and the greatest foe to food preservation, dampness, will at once exist. Demonstrate this to yourself, on some warm day, by observing the condensation taking place upon your ice pitcher as it stands upon the buffet. Metal or solid shelving obstructs free circulation.

As an inside and outside temperature have to be dealt with, the framing and doors should be solidly morticed and tenoned. The hardware should be first-class, brass or brass nickel plated will be found the most durable.

The best results are usually obtained by having ice go in from the top. Do not look for a freezing temperature; you do not need it. Be satisfied with 40° to 42° at the bottom, and 46° to 48° at the top.

Never allow direct connection with the house drain. Have the refrigerator cleaned once a week, not with a hose, but with a damp cloth and sapolio. Never buy anything that utilizes the waste water for drinking purposes, or one from which the waste or drip is drawn off by a faucet. In either case you retain something impregnated with gases and foul air, that which you are the most anxious to be rid of. Long drain pipes will prove a source of constant annoyance, and necessitate the wholesale destruction of your umbrellas to furnish wires for clearing the pipe. Always stand your refrigerator in a dry place.

If the foregoing hints are of service to the reader in making a selection, we shall feel repaid for the time and labor expended in investigating the subject.



DESIGN FOR SIDE BOARD.

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